Decline in export of handicrafts and textiles from NER

1541. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of handicrafts and textiles from North Eastern Region with particular reference to Assam has declined during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government proposed to boost up the export of handicrafts and textiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) State-wise/Region-wise data is not Centrally maintained. However, the exports of textiles including handicrafts from the country including Assam during the last three years are given below:—

(In million US$)

Year	Textiles including Handicrafts, Coir and Jute	%increase/decrease over the previous year
1999-2000	10508.5	10.1%
2000-2001	12037.6	14.6%
2001-2002	10715.0	-11.0%

Source : DGCI & S, Calcutta

As per latest available DGCI&S data, the textile exports including handcrafts, coir and jute during the period April-November, 2002 amounted to US$ 789.9 million as compared to export of US$ 7137.6 million during the corresponding period of 2001, recording a growth of 10.1%. These latest trends show that the downtrend in textile exports has been reversed.

(c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to boost textile and handicraft exports from country including Assam. Some of the important initiatives are:

(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures.This further encourages modernisation.

(iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%.

(v) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centre (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(vi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the textile products pre-tested for conforming Jo the requirements of importing countries.

(vii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Appareal Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.

(viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme "Textile Centre Infrastructure Develoment Scheme (TCIDS) has been launched.

(ix) Government has been according special attention to export promotion of handicrafts items by way of giving assistance for organization of buyer-seller meet; overseas publicity; organization of workshops on design development; export marketing and packaging etc; participation in various international fairs; sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad; organization of international

carpet fair by Carpet Export Promotion Council and organization of Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fairs (Autumn and Spring) by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, annually in New Delhi. Assistance has been provided for setting up of Indian Institute of Carpet Technology at Bhadohi, Metal Handicrafts and Service Centre at Moradabad National Centre for Design and Product Development at New Delhi and Moradabad and India Exposition Mart Ltd. At Greater Noida.

(x) Import of raw silk has been liberalized by being brought under OGL, which has increased availability of good quality silk.

(xi) Government has rationalised value additiona/lnput Output norms specified under the EXIM Policy extended to exporters.

12 Noon

PAPERS LAID ON THETABLE

Report and Accounts (2001-2002) of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, New Delhi and related Papers

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above [Placed in library *see* No. LT-7095/03]

Notification of the Ministry of Coal

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

Under section 7A of the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Coal Notification G.S.R. 107(E) dated the 13th February, 2003, publishing